

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Leather Processing Enterprises

a. The largest leather processing enterprises in Hungary are:

- 1) Wolfner, Váci ut Budapest -Ujpest: soles, uppers and tannery; 3,000 to 4,000 employees; largest such enterprise in Hungary.
- 2) Mautner, Váci ut Budapest - Ujpest: soles, uppers, and tannery; capacity is about one-half of Wolfner.
- 3) Simontornyai Fried Bőrgyár, Simontornya: similar to Mautner.
- 4) Pécsi Bőrgyár, Pécs: soles, uppers, and tannery; second largest such enterprise in Hungary.

b. Smaller leather processing enterprises include:

- 1) Hirsch, Budapest-Ujpest: uppers and tannery; 50 to 100 employees
- 2) Csillag, Budapest-Ujpest: similar to Hirsch.
- 3) Szombathelyi Bőrgyár: approximately 150 employees.

2. Production of Reclaimed Leather.

- a. The former Lásár factory for-reclaimed leather (now known as Fővárosi Bőrhulladék) was moved in 1952 from Dózsefi utca 15, Budapest, to the old city hall building on Szilinsky utca. It employs approximately 200 men in two shifts. Seat-covers, leather for the Hungarian railroads, Budapest buses and streetcars, also soles, and upper shoe leather are its principal products.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- b. The factory has three sewing machines, three grinders, three cutters, one mixer and one press. Daily production at the end of 1951 was approximately 500 to 600 kg. of soles, 300 to 400 square meters of sprayed leather, and 100 pairs of uppers.
- c. Soles are made from ground leather waste, to which a Latex-type preparation is added. Uppers and seat covers are made from small pieces of leather sewed and glued together, sprayed with a Latex-type preparation, and pressed to give a uniform leather-like surface.
- d. The original formula used by the former Lázár factory in reclaiming leather was based on local raw materials and was known only to the manager. The formula was not given to the new management after nationalization. Latex is now imported from East Germany by the Foreign Trade Office (Külforgalmi Hivatal) the state trade organization for leather. Latex is not imported in sufficient quantity to insure continuous production because of the lack of foreign currency. Consequently, the factory is often idle.
- e. Leather is stored at the National Leather Wholesale Enterprise (Bőrnagykereskedelmi N.V.) Paulai Ede utca 61, Budapest. Secret depots are [redacted] in the vicinity of Teleki tér.
- f. Natural leather is used almost exclusively for army requirements, while civilian shoes are generally made of reclaimed leather. A quantity of natural sole leather is allocated for civilian use during the bad winter months.
- g. Reclaimed upper leather is being made by approximately 50 cooperatives at various localities in Hungary.
- h. Since the nationalization Beszkart, Akácfa utca 9, (the city streetcar and bus company) and Mav (the nationalized railways) have obtained supplies from the National Leather Wholesale Enterprise.

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3. Personalities

- a. Rózsa (fnu), manager of the National Wholesale Leather Enterprise, is [redacted] not a leather expert,
- b. János Vas, manager of the Capital Leather Scrap Reclaiming Works (Fővárosi Bőrhulladék Feldolgozó Üzem) is [redacted] a former shoemaker

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